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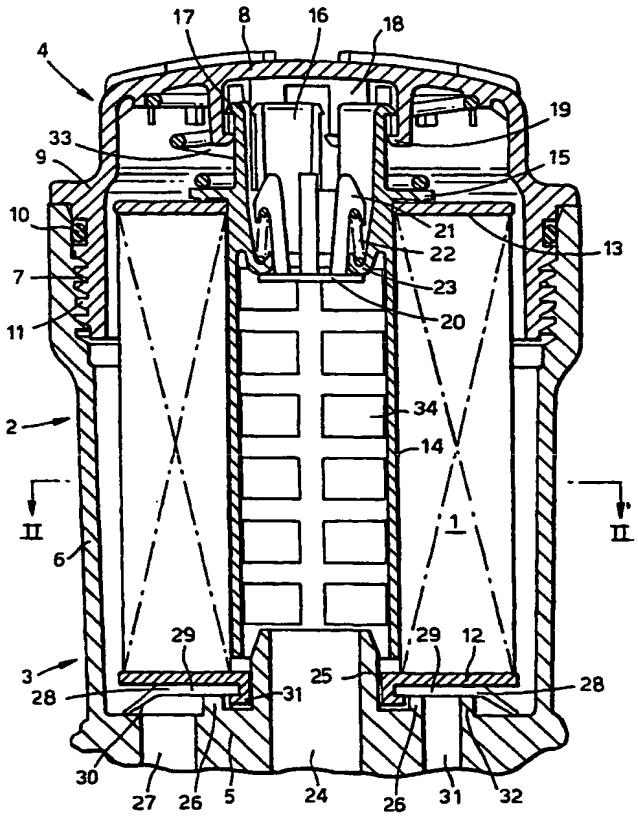
(54) Title: FILTER ASSEMBLY WITH DRAIN OUTLET



(57) Abstract: A fluid filter assembly for filtering a fluid, such as oil in a combustion engine. The fluid filter assembly comprises a housing (2) having a fluid inlet (27) and a fluid outlet (24); and a filter element (1) mounted on a support (12, 13, 14) within the housing between the fluid inlet (27) and the fluid outlet (24). The housing (2) also has a drain outlet (31). The filter element is annular (1) and includes an annular end wall (12) extending around one end of the filter element (1). The annular end wall (12) closes the drain outlet (31). The filter element support (12, 13, 14) is retained on a removable cap (4) which is fitted to a base, together constitute the housing (2). A resilient loading element in the form of a spring (33) biasses the support (12, 13, 14) against the drain outlet (31) and loads the sealing faces of the support (12, 13, 14) which seal the filter element (1) between the fluid inlet (27) and the fluid outlet (24). The annular end wall (12) of the support has a resilient annular valve element (28) comprising a base portion (29) disposed adjacent the annular end wall (12) which seals the drain outlet (31) and a flap (30) extending from the base portion (29) to close the fluid inlet (27) and constitute a non-return valve.

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